

REMARKS

Claims 2, 4-6 have been removed from consideration. Claims 1 and 3 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by Shoemaker (US 6,027,148). Shoemaker is relied upon for disclosing a latch assembly comprising: a housing (214); a hook like member (Examiner's hand-marked "A" on Fig. 16); a pivoting pawl (266) attached to the housing; a torsion spring (284) biasing the pawl; a solenoid (312) supported by the housing; a locking member (262) actuated by the solenoid; and wherein energizing the solenoid allows the latch to disengage the keeper.

Applicants' have amended claims 1 and 3. However, said amendments have not been offered to distinguish over Shoemaker as Shoemaker is not considered to disclose "a housing having a hook-like member". The standing rejection is respectfully TRAVERSED as Shoemaker does not show every element previously recited in claim 1.

Shoemaker expressly recites his Fig. 16 as an exploded view of Fig. 5. (col. 5, lines 32-33). The bottom case of Figs. 5 and 16 is shown in detail in Fig. 7 and expressly recited as such at col. 5, lines 1-2. The slight overlap of material marked as "A" in Fig. 16 by the Examiner is not recited anywhere in Shoemaker. Nor does it bear a reference numeral. Nor is it shown in any other figure including not being shown in the enlarged views of Figs. 7, and 9-12.

A hook is a "curved object used to catch, drag, suspend, attach, pull or close something". See *Webster's New College Dictionary* and *McGraw-Hill Dictionary of Scientific and Technical Terms*. Applicants' hook-like members 34 are curved and cooperate with the pawl 14 to catch and hold (attach) a keeper. There is no such purpose for the overlay flap obviously mistakenly shown in Shoemaker Fig. 16. In fact, a hook protruding into Shoemaker's V-shaped slot 300 would make Shoemaker's device inoperative and defeat its functional purpose. The Examiners attention is directed to col. 12 lines 5-22 and lines 34-44. Shoemaker's fork 266 is his pawl. Shoemaker's rod 212 is his keeper; and Shoemaker's

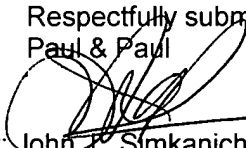
lock arm 262 is his pivoting pawl movement interceptor. See Figs. 9-13. Once Shoemaker fully releases his pawl/ fork 266 to rotate, he does not want his keeper 212 caught by a hook protruding into his V-shaped slot 300. Shoemaker does not show, nor recited a hook-shaped element as part of his housing.

Applicants' have amended claims 1 and 3 and have added new claims 7-22. Of these new claims, claims 16 and 22 are independent claims. It is believed that all of the claims presented for examination 1,3, 7-22 each distinguish over Shoemaker as well as the other prior art of record before the Examiner.

Should claims generic to the non-elected species be allowed, applicants' reserve their right to insert dependent claims addressing the structure of any relevant non-elected species.

Re-examination of this application with the claims presented herewith is respectfully requested

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Respectfully submitted,
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The latch assembly 1100 is actuated by lifting the handle 1102 in an upward direction. The actuation arm 1178 of the handle 1102 engages the pad 1186 of the catch beam 1150 to pivotally move the catch beam 1150 downward and move the catch plate 1174 out of engagement with the pawl lug 1164 thereby freeing up the pawl 1154 for pivoting. The bias provided by the pawl torsion spring 1166 rotates the pawl 1154 from its closed position, where the keeper rod is cooperatively captured by the pawl slot 1156 and the hook-shaped structure 1138, to its open position shown in Figs. 47 and 53. The rotation of the pawl 1154 brings the opening of the pawl slot 1156 out from under the hook-shaped member 1138 and allows the keeper rod to be disengaged from the pawl 1154. The compartment or panel to which the latch assembly 1100 is attached can then be opened.

Suitable mounting means are provided to retain the latch assembly 1100 on a panel or mounting surface. For example, installation of the latch assembly 1100 to a panel may be accomplished with screws or pins which pass through holes 1196 for fastening of the latch assembly to a panel, such as for example, a glove box door 1198 of an automobile.

The latch assembly 1100 also has some additional features which enhance its resistance to tampering. First, the pawl 1154 and the hook-like structure 1138 are off-set to one side of the handle 1102 such that if the handle is broken off by a thief, a screw driver or other tool inserted through the access holes for the handle mounts or the actuating arm cannot reach the pawl 1154. Also, a lug 1200 is provided in the housing that engages a rib 1202 (Fig. 71) provided on the catch beam 1150 when the catch bar is in the locked position. This housing lug 1200 prevents pivotal movement of the catch beam 1150 when the catch beam is in the locked position, and thus disengaging the catch beam from the pawl lug by inserting a tool through the access opening for the actuating arm is prevented or greatly impeded. Lastly, the latch assembly is designed such that the handle can be assembled to the latch housing after the housing has been installed to the door. This feature keeps the number and size of the openings needed in the door for the installation of the latch assembly to a minimum, thereby reducing the opportunity for unauthorized access to the latch assembly.

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